

VZCZCXRO8227  
RR RUEH DU RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN  
DE RUEHLG #0875 2761506  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 031506Z OCT 06  
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
TO RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0710  
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 1357  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3358  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEPGDA/USEUCOM JIC VAIHINGEN GE  
RUEPGCA/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS LILONGWE 000875

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/S KAMANA MATHUR  
STATE FOR PM/RSAT KRISTIN SILER  
GABORONE FOR ODC MAJ. DAN JONES  
HARARE FOR DATT LTC K.D. NEAL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PMIL](#) [MI](#)

SUBJECT: MALAWI REQUESTS ASSISTANCE LOCATING HU-U1 TRAINING  
PROVIDER

REF: 05STATE 219454

11. (U) Action Request: Post requests assistance locating an organization or contractor to provide training for the Malawi Defense Force in the operation and maintenance of UH-1H helicopters.

12. (U) On September 21 Malawi Defense Force (MDF) Commander Marko Chiziko met with Ambassador Eastham to discuss, at Chiziko's request, the way forward in the proposed transfer of four U.S.-made UH-1H helicopters from Taiwan to the GOM (reftel). The government of Taiwan will not proceed with the transfer unless Malawi can secure training and maintenance for the aircraft. Chiziko outlined the problems that they have faced with the transfer, highlighting their failure to secure training for MDF pilots and mechanics on the aircraft. Chiziko, noting that the MDF has funds available to pay for training, outlined his unsuccessful efforts to secure training in both France and Germany in the use and maintenance of the aircraft. In both instances the contractors contacted told the GOM that the UH-1Hs were too out of date (built in the 1960s) for them to conduct the trainings. Chiziko asked Ambassador Eastham for assistance in locating a training contractor in the U.S. who could train the MDF on the vehicles. Chiziko assured the Ambassador that the MDF could fund the trainings themselves, and were not looking for financial support.

13. (U) Chiziko also brought up a question about two DC-3 Dakota aircraft which are no longer airworthy. Chiziko said this had been discussed earlier with one of the Ambassador,s predecessors, as "these aircraft are U.S. property" (NFI - he may be referring to end-use restrictions; we have no collective memory here of a grant of these aircraft). Chiziko said that at one point a turboprop conversion had been considered but the airframe modifications would have been too expensive. The planes had also been put up for sale but the bids were too low. They had previously determined that their upkeep and maintenance were too expensive to sustain, and have decided to dispose of the aircraft. Chiziko promised to deliver more information regarding the aircraft to the Ambassador before seeking to move forward. Any further information will be delivered septel.

GILMOUR